THE PETITION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TO His Majestie,

Concerning His intended going to IRELAND.

Whereunto is added Six Reasons, or Motives, to dissuade His Majesty from going thither.

April 22.

It is this day Ordered, that this be forthwith Published.

Hen. Elsinge, Cler. Com. D. Parl.

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May it pleaſe Your Majeſty:

YOur Majeſties moſt loyall and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, have duely conſidered the Meſſage received from your Majeſty concerning your purpoſe of going into *Ireland* in your own Perſon, to proſecute the War there with the bodies of your Engliſh ſubjects leavied, tranſported, and maintained at their charge; which you are pleaſed to propound to us, not as a matter wherein your Majeſty deſires the advice of your Parliament, but as already firmly reſolved on, and forthwith to be put in execution, by granting out Commiſſions for the leavying of 2000 Foot, and 200 Horſe for a Guard for your Perſon when you ſhall come into that Kingdom; Wherein we cannot chooſe but with all reverence and humility to your Majeſty, obſerve, That you have declined your great Councell, the Parliament, and varyed from the uſuall courſe of your Royall Predeceſſors, that a buſineſſe of ſo great importance, concerning the peace and ſafety of all your Subjects, and wherein they have a ſpeciall intereſt by your Majeſties promiſes, and by thoſe great ſums which they have diſburſed, and for which they

ſtand engaged, ſhould be concluded and undertaken without their advice: Whereupon we hold it our duty to declare, That if at this time your Majeſty ſhall go into *Ireland*, you will very much endanger the ſafety of your Royall Perſon and Kingdome, and of all other States profeſſing the Proteſtant Religion in Chriſtendom, and make way to that cruell and bloudy deſigne of the Papiſts every where, to root out and deſtroy the Reformed Religion, as the Iriſh Papiſts have in a great part already effected in that Kingdom, and in all likely-hood would quickly be attempted in other places, if the conſideration of the ſtrength and union of the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland* did not much hinder and diſcourage the execution of any ſuch deſigne: And that we may manifeſt unto your Majeſty the danger and miſery which ſuch a journey and enterpriſe would procure, we preſent to your Majeſty the Reaſons of this our humble Opinion and Advice.

I. Your Royall Perſon will be ſubject, not onely to the caſualty of War, but to ſecret practices and conſpiracies, eſpecially your Majeſty continuing your profeſſion to maintain the Proteſtant Religion in that Kingdome, which the Papiſts are generally bound by their vow to extirpate.

II. It will exceedingly encourage the Rebells, who do generally profeſſe and declare, That your Majeſty doth favour and allow their proceedings, and this Inſurrection was undertaken by the Warrant of your Commiſſion; and it will make good their expectation

pectation of great advantage by your Majesties Presence at this time of so much distraction in this Kingdome, whereby they may hope we shall be disabled to supply the War there, especially there appearing lesse necessity of your Majesties Journey at this time, by reason of the manifold successes which God hath given against them.

III. It will much hinder and impair the means whereby this War is to be supported, and encrease the charge of it, and in both these respects, make it more insupportable to your Subjects; And this we can confidently affirm, because many of the Adventurers, who have already subscribed, do upon the knowledge of your Majesties intentions, declare their resolutions not to pay in their money, and others very willing to have subscribed, do now professe the contrary.

IV. Your Majesties absence must necessarily very much interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, and deprive your Subjects of the benefit of those further Acts of Grace, and Justice, which we shall humbly expect from your Majesty, for the establishing of perfect Union, and mutuall confidence betwixt your Majesty, and your People, and procuring and confirming the prosperity and happinesse of both.

V. It will exceedingly encrease the jealousies and fears of your People, and render the doubts of your Subjects, more probable of some force intended by some evill Councels neer your Majestie, in opposition

to the Parliament, and favour of the malignant party of the Kingdom.

VI. It will bereave your Parliament of that advantage, whereby they were induced to undertake this War upon your Majesties promise, that it should be mannaged by their advice, which cannot be done if your Majesty contrary to their Councell, shall undertake to Order and Govern it in your own Person.

Upon which, and divers others Reasons, we have resolved, by the full and concurring agreement of both Houses, That we cannot with the duty which belongs to us, consent to any levies, or raising of Souldiers to be made by your Majesty, for this your intended expedition into *Ireland*, or to the payment of any Army, or Souldiers there; but such as shall be employed and governed according to our advice and direction; and that if such Levies shall be made by any such Commission of your Majesty, not agreed to by both Houses of Parliament, we shall be forced to interpret the same to be raised to the terror of your People, and disturbance of the publike Peace, and hold our selves bound by the Laws of the Kingdom, to apply the authority of Parliament to suppresse the same.

And we do further, most humbly declare, That if your Majesty shall by ill Councell be perswaded to go, contrary to this advice of your Parliament (which we hope your Majesty will not:) We do not in that case hold our Selves bound to submit to any Com-

Commiſſioners which your Majeſtie ſhall chuſe, but do reſolve to preſerve and govern the Kingdom by the Councell and advice of your Parliament, for your Majeſty, and your Poſterity, according to our Allegiance, and the Law of the Land.

Wherefore we humbly pray, and adviſe your Majeſty to deſiſt from this your intended paſſage into *Ireland*, and of all preparation of Men and Arms tending thereunto, and to leave the mannaging of that Warre to your Majeſties Parliament, according to your Majeſties promiſe, made unto us, and your Royall Commiſſion, granted under your great Seal of *England*, by advice of both Houſes; In proſecution whereof, by Gods bleſſing, we have made a proſperous entrance by many defeats of the Rebels; whereby they are much weakned, and diſheartned, and have no probable means of ſubſiſtance if our proceedings ſhall not be interrupted by this interpoſition of your Majeſties journey, but that we may hope upon good grounds, that within a ſhort time, without hazard of your Majeſties Perſon, and ſo much dangerous confuſion to your Kingdoms, which muſt needs enſue, if you ſhould proceed in this Reſolution, we ſhall be enabled fully to Vindicate your Majeſties Right and Authority in that Kingdom, and puniſh thoſe horrible and outragious cruelties which have been committed in the murthering, and ſpoiling ſo many of your Subjects, and bring that Realm to ſuch a condition, as may be much for the advantage of your Majeſty and this Crown, the honour of your Government and Contentment of your People; for the better and more ſpeedy effecting whereof, we do

again

again renew our humble desires of your return to your Parliament: And that you will please to reject all Councels, and Apprehensions which may any way derogate from the faithfulnesse, and allegiance, which in truth, and sincerity, we have alwayes borne, and professed to your Majesty, and shall ever make good to the uttermost, with our lives and fortunes.

FINIS.